

Filed for intro on 03/01/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0081
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize the fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to proclaim the week of March 1 as "State of Inclusion Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to the disabled citizens of Tennessee and those exemplary professionals who work assiduously on and in behalf of those citizens with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this recognition is rendered all the more poignant by the fact that one-fifth of Tennessee's citizens, and one-fourth in rural areas, are disabled; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted to provide comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services and telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, this progressive legislation was originally developed by the National Council on Disability, which in its 1986 study, "Toward Independence" recognized the inadequacy of the existing, limited patchwork of protections for individuals with disabilities, and recommended the enactment of a comprehensive civil rights law requiring equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities throughout American life; and

WHEREAS, the road to passage of this landmark legislation was not an easy one, however; originally introduced in 1988, the 100th Congress failed to act on the bill; and

WHEREAS, the ADA gained a valuable ally when then-Vice President George Bush endorsed the concept of comprehensive disability rights legislation during his presidential campaign and became a dedicated advocate of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, the ADA was reintroduced in modified form in May 1989 for consideration by the 101st Congress; prime sponsors of this landmark legislation were two U.S. Congressmen from Tennessee, Don Sundquist, now the Governor of the great Volunteer State, and Jimmy Quillen, thus providing an affirmative vote of support for the ADA at the state level as well as the federal level; and

WHEREAS, finally after an arduous legislative hearing process which featured reiterated support for ADA by the Bush Administration, the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted into law with President Bush's signature at a White House ceremony on July 26, 1990; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the fifth anniversary of this historic occasion, this General Assembly also reaffirms Tennessee's commitment in government, business and the private sector for the Advancement of All Tennesseans to promote inclusion of those citizens with disabilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the fifth anniversary of the signing into law of the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990 Public Law 101-336) by President George Bush on July 26, 1990, and in doing so, reaffirm Tennessee's commitment for the Advancement of All Tennesseans to promote inclusion of those citizens with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we proclaim the week of March 1 as "State of Inclusion Week" in Tennessee and embrace the concept of inclusion of all citizens, including those with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our most sincere thanks to Governor Don Sundquist for his courageous sponsorship of the ADA in 1990, and for his continued support of the civil rights of those citizens with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be provided to Senator Crowe for presentation to the appropriate parties.

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